THE POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT FRAMEWORK:
INTERNATIONAL PROCESS AND CANADIAN PRIORITIES
August 2014

(This backgrounder is a living document and will be updated periodically)

Issue*: As the deadline for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) approaches, United Nations' member states, civil society, and the private sector worldwide are engaging in discussions to propose a new sustainable development framework to succeed the MDGs in 2015. This paper looks at the process to date, the current state of play towards developing a post-2015 framework, and Canadian priorities for post-2015.*

1. THE INTERNATIONAL PROCESS LEADING TO A POST-2015 FRAMEWORK

As the implementation period of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)[1] comes to a conclusion in 2015, discussions are well underway to elaborate a new sustainable development framework that will succeed the MDGs, and like the MDGs, cover a fifteen year period from 2015-2030. Discussions on a successor to the MDGS began in 2012 and led to two different, but related streams of work: one on a set of sustainable development goals (SDGs), emerging from the 2012 Rio+20 - United Nations (UN) Conference on Sustainable Development, and another more directly related to considering what would follow the MDGs in 2015. While the processes have been separate, there has also been increasing recognition that merging the two represents a real opportunity to bring back together issues related to the environment and development, two areas of work that have taken parallel paths within the UN system since the major UN conferences of the 1990s. Member states officially recognized the importance of this in September 2013 at a High-Level Meeting, and the UN Secretary General is expected to submit a synthesis report to UN members by the end of 2014 that should frame how to do just that. States will then have less than one year to negotiate the details of the post-2015 sustainable development framework, which is scheduled to be adopted at a UN Summit in September 2015.

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[1] The MDGs include eight goals, namely 1) eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, 2) achieving universal primary education, 3) promoting gender equality and empowering women, 4) reducing child mortality, 5) improving maternal health, 6) combating HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases, 7) ensuring environmental sustainability, and 8) establishing a global partnership to achieve this. See http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/ for further details.

THE POST-2015 PROCESS AND CANADA

1.1 FIRST STREAM: SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

This first stream of work emerged out of the Rio+20 conference in June 2012 and has been looking to develop a set of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which are "coherent with and integrated into"[2] the post-2015 development agenda. Under this first stream, three processes have been put into place to do the following: 1) elaborate goals and targets for the future framework; 2) discuss how to finance it; and, 3) monitor and evaluate its implementation. These processes are being managed through their own structures: the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, the Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing, and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development, respectively. Also, a Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) and an Interagency Technical Support Team were created to provide analytical, research, and technical support for the elaboration of the SDGs.

A. Open Working Group on Sustainable Development (OWG)

Founded in January 2013, the Open Working Group (OWG) is comprised of 30 members (each member generally represents more than one country) and has been tasked with coming up with options for a set of SDGs, to then be negotiated by United Nations member states. The group initially held a set of exploratory presentations from experts, after which they began to drill down on a set of focus areas. Over 2013-14, and after 13 work sessions, the OWG agreed on an Outcome Document that will be submitted to the UN General Assembly (UNGA) ahead of the official start, in September 2014, of intergovernmental negotiations on a post-2015 framework. This document will in turn inform the Secretary-General's synthesis report, which is due before the end of 2014.

The Outcome Document proposed 17 SDGs and 169 targets for the 2015-2030 period, many of which update and reorient the MDGs. For example, rather than halving poverty and hunger, a goal has been proposed to end poverty in all its forms while another focuses on food security, improved nutrition and sustainable agriculture. The education goal has been updated to include aspects related to inclusivity, quality, and life-long learning, in addition to completion rates. The proposed goals also expand on the MDGs, and include provisions to address inequality and inclusion, access to affordable, reliable and sustainable forms of energy, inclusive and sustainable growth and full and productive employment and decent work for all, sustainable consumption and production patterns, combating climate change, sustainable management of biodiversity, and peaceful and inclusive societies.

B. Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)

The ICESDF is an intergovernmental committee of 30 experts which is mandated to recommend a financing strategy to mobilise resources and their effective use for the implementation of the SDGs. More specifically, it was tasked "to assess financing needs, consider the effectiveness,

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[2] Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. "Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals". Online: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html (consulted on 14 August 2014).

consistency and synergies of existing instruments and frameworks, and evaluate additional initiatives, with a view to preparing a report proposing options on an effective sustainable development financing strategy to facilitate the mobilization of resources and their effective use in achieving sustainable development objectives."[3] The ICESDF coordinated its work with the OWG and adopted, on August 8, 2014, its final report. This has been sent to the UNGA for consideration. This report notes that while "global public and private savings are sufficient to meet current needs, (…) the expected returns on investments associated with sustainable development are often not as attractive as other opportunities, especially in the near term, and governments have not been able to mobilize adequate public financing to undertake necessary investments that profit-seeking investors eschew."[4] The report concludes that there is no one simple policy solution and that a basket of policy measures will be necessary. Suggested measures include better aligning private incentives with public goals; creating a policy framework that encourages for-profit investment in these areas; mobilizing public resources for essential sustainable development activities; reducing corruption; and ensuring that policies and incentives better match investor preference with investment needs.[5]

In addition, in July 2014, the General Assembly adopted a resolution to hold a Third International Conference on Financing for Development - following similar conferences in Monterrey in 2002 linked to financing the MDGs, and a review of progress on this in Doha in 2008. It will take place in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, from 13-16 July, 2015, ahead of the September 2015 Post-2015 summit. It is expected that the ICESDF report, released in August 2014, will inform the intergovernmental negotiations for the post-2015 development agenda and stimulate future discussions on financing sustainable development, such as those that will take place during the Third international Conference on Financing for Development.[6]

C. High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
The High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is the main United Nations' platform dealing with sustainable development. It was established in 2012 following the Rio+20 summit, and will ultimately replace the Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD), which itself was originally set up following the 1992 UN Conference on Environment and Development (UNCED) in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. Like its predecessor, the Forum meets every year under the auspices of the UN's Economic and Social Council, and every four years at the level of Heads of State and Government at the General Assembly. The Forum is there to (a) provide political leadership and guidance on sustainable development; (b) follow up and review progress in implementing

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[3] Beyond 2015. "Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing". Online:
http://www.beyond2015.org/committee-experts-sustainable-development-financing (consulted on 15 August 2014).

[4] IISD Post-2015 Policy and Practice. "ICESDF Concludes Work, Forwards Report to UNGA". Online:
http://post2015.iisd.org/news/icesdf-concludes-work-forwards-report-to-unga/ (consulted on 14 August 2014).

[5] Idem.

[6] ICESDF Report 2014, paragraphs 175 and 176. Online:
http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/4588FINAL%20REPORT%20ICESDF.pdf

sustainable development commitments; (c) enhance the integration of economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development; and (d) address new and emerging sustainable development challenges.[7] The Forum is expected to steer the implementation, integration and review of the SDGs and the post 2015 development agenda and will meet in June-July 2015 to discuss this issue ahead of the official adoption of the Post-2015 agenda in September 2015. The Forum will have an important role in tracking the implementation of the post-2015 agenda between 2015 and 2030.

D. Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN)
The Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN) is an independent network which mobilizes scientific and technical expertise from academia, civil society, and the private sector, providing analysis and research in support of sustainable development problem solving at local, national, and global scales. It has proposed a list of indictors for the SDGs. The SDSN reported its findings to the Secretary General in a report entitled "An Action Agenda for Sustainable Development," which was last updated in May 2014.[8]

E. **Interagency Technical Support Team (TST)**
The Inter-Agency Technical Support Team (TST) was established under the umbrella of the UN System Task Team and its aim is to provide technical support, including analytical inputs, background material and expert panellists, to the Open Working Group.

1.2 SECOND STREAM: POST-2015
The second stream of work was set up to consider specifically what would replace the MDGs after 2015. Under this stream, mutltiple consultations were organized to identify the main priority themes for post-2015 by country, by region, and by sector. Some of these consultations were organized nationally while others were global and accessible through online platforms. The various processes also had as an objective to present reports and proposals to help elaborate a post-2015 development framework. The main processes discussed in this section are the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda, the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons, the UN Development Group (UNDG), the UN Regional Economic Commissions, the UN Global Compact, and the Special Advisor on post-2015 Development Planning.

A. UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda – proposals and consultations
The UN System Task Team, established by the UN Secretary General in January 2012, gathers more than 60 UN bodies and other international organisations. Co-chaired by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the

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[7] Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform. Online:
http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/index.php?menu=1556 (consulted on 14 August 2014).

[8] This 2014 report replaces the previous version released on 6 June, 2013.

Task Team is supporting the process leading up to post-2015 by providing analytical thinking and substantial inputs. It has published two key reports to date: Realizing the future we want for all (2012) and A renewed global partnership for Development (2013). The 2012 report reviewed the strengths and weaknesses of the MDGs and suggested that the framework for post-2015 be reorganized along four key dimensions for a more holistic approach: (1) inclusive social development; (2) inclusive economic development; (3) environmental sustainability; and (4) peace and security. It also offered a number of suggestions on the way forward for the consultations of the post-2015 agenda.[9] The 2013 report looked at the possible features for the global partnership for development in post-2015.[10] Some of its key recommendations included: universal commitments calling for actions from *all* countries according to their national capabilities; that the changes in the development landscape, including the increasing importance of other stakeholders beyond traditional developed country donors, be reflected; a stand-alone goal on the global partnership for development; and keeping track of progress to ensure robust accountability.

In response to complaints that the MDGs were not developed in a manner that was consultative enough, the UN Task Team has also supported and facilitated a number of consultation processes in collaboration with representatives from civil society, the private sector, academia, and governments. The web platform The World We Want provides information on, and access to, these consultations. A first phase started in 2012 and focused on the potential issues and areas to be included in a post-2015 development agenda. These included national consultations in 88 countries as well as thematic consultations on the following eleven themes: education, inequalities, health, governance, conflict and fragility, growth and employment, environmental sustainability, hunger, nutrition and food security, population dynamics, energy, and water. In April 2014 a second consultation phase was launched, focusing on dialogues on the implementation of the post-2015 development agenda. The objective of these dialogues is to "draw upon the lessons learned and the collective wisdom of people around the world, convince policymakers that an ambitious post-2015 agenda can be implemented and foster a broad sense of ownership, inclusive planning structures and multi-stakeholder partnerships to support its delivery".[11] The results of these two discussion phases will be summarized in a report that will be presented at a high-level side event during the 69th session of the General Assembly in September 2014.

The UN development system is therefore creating space and opportunities for interested groups and individuals to contribute specific ideas and proposals for the implementation of the post-2015 agenda in their countries and at a global level.

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[9] UN DESA. 2012. "Report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda". Online: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/report.shtml. (consulted on 14 August 2014).

[10] UN DESA. 2013. "Report of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 UN Development Agenda". Online: http://www.un.org/en/development/desa/policy/untaskteam_undf/glob_dev_rep_2013.pdf (consulted on 14 August 2014).

[11] The World We Want 2015. "Dialogues on Implementation of the Post-2015 Development Agenda". Online: http://www.worldwewant2015.org/sitemap (consulted on 14 August 2014).

B. High Level Panel of Eminent Persons

The High Level Panel of Eminent Persons was established by the Secretary General in 2012. It brought together 27 members to advise on the global development framework beyond 2015. The Panel was co-chaired by President Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono of Indonesia, President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf of Liberia, and Prime Minister David Cameron of the United Kingdom, and included leaders from civil society, private sector and government. In 2013, it released its report entitled, "A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development." The Report called for the new post-2015 goals to drive five big transformative shifts, which will 1) leave no one behind; 2) put sustainable development at the core; 3) transform economies for jobs and inclusive growth; 4) build peace and effective, open and accountable institutions for all; and, 5) forge a new Global Partnership.[12]

The High Level Panel of Eminent Persons also called for a data revolution, arguing that more data is needed to inform policy making, programming, to measure new goals and to enable people to have the necessary information to hold their governments to account. This idea has really taken off and we are seeing a lot of attention being paid to how we will measure progress on a set of post-2015 SDGs.

C. UN Development Group (UNDG)

The UN Development Group (UNDG) was established in 1997. It unites the 32 UN funds, programmes, agencies, departments, and offices that play a role in development. The group's common objective is to deliver more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries seeking to attain internationally agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The UNDG was involved in the organization of the thematic and national consultations discussed above.

D. UN Regional Economic Commissions

The UN Regional Economic Commissions were involved in consultations to identify key regional priority areas for the post-2015 development agenda. The Commissions released their final report in June 2013. In addition to regional priorities, the report also stresses four key messages: the importance of placing employment generation at the centre of the post-2015 agenda; the need for more effective approaches to tackle inequality; the need to incorporate a more comprehensive approach to environmental sustainability; and the effective incorporation of democratic governance into the post-2015 debate.

E. UN Global Compact

The UN Global Compact aims to ensure that the views of businesses and the private sector are included in the post-2015 process. They are conducting their own consultations among their

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[12] High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on The Post-2015 Development Agenda. 2013. "A New Global Partnership: Eradicate Poverty and Transform Economies through Sustainable Development", pp.7-12. Online: http://www.post2015hlp.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/05/UN-Report.pdf (consulted on 20 August 2014).

network of members, are exploring ways to feed into the process and have established a task force more actively engaged in the process. The Global Compact provided the UN Secretary General with recommendations on the post-2015 agenda in June 2013 through a report called "Corporate Sustainability and the United Nations Post-2015 Development Agenda." In July 2014, they also released a paper on "The Role of Business and Finance in Supporting the Post-2015 Agenda," considering how businesses can help advance sustainable development through their activities and actions.

F. Special Advisor on post-2015 Development Planning
Amina J. Mohammed of Nigeria was appointed as Special Adviser on post-2015 Development Planning by the Secretary General in 2012. Ms. Mohammed provides advice to the Secretary-General and coordinates the development and consensus-building processes on the post-2015 agenda among key relevant actors. She also provides the link to the Open Working Group on sustainable development goals.[13]

1.3 MERGING THE TWO STREAMS: SEPTEMBER 2014 AND BEYOND
In September 2013, the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the MDGs took a significant step towards merging the two streams of work, when governments adopted an Outcome Document laying out a roadmap for the post-2015 process going forward. The document underscored the importance of establishing a *single framework* and a *universal set of goals* – applicable to all countries but taking into account different national contexts. It urged the Open Working Group and the Inter-Governmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing to complete their work by September 2014. And they agreed to a formal intergovernmental negotiation process to develop this common framework starting at the 69th session of the UNGA in September 2014.

Thus, the Secretary-General is expected to synthesize all the inputs from the various streams of work and to submit a report to UN Member States by the end of 2014. On the basis of that report, states will enter a phase of formal intergovernmental negotiations to develop a common sustainable development framework for post-2015. That is when everyone will start to focus on the details of the targets and indicators. These negotiations will conclude in an intergovernmental Heads of State Summit in September 2015 to adopt the post-2015 development agenda.

Once the post-2015 development agenda is adopted, it is expected that the High-Level Political Forum, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, will conduct regular reviews, starting in 2016, on the follow-up and implementation of sustainable development commitments and objectives.

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[13] Beyond 2015. "UN Actors. UN Special Advisor to the UN Secretary General on post-2015". Online: http://www.beyond2015.org/un-actors (consulted on 14 August 2014).

2. CANADA AND POST-2015

In 2010, Canadian Prime Minister Stephen Harper reaffirmed Canada's commitment towards the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) when he spoke at the MDG Summit. He noted that the MDGs are an important framework, "that enable us to measure our collective progress towards building a better future for those most in need." This was a minor, but important, development, since up until that point Harper had been somewhat ambivalent towards the MDGs. Since then, Canada has been paying a lot more attention to the MDGs, and how Canada can support progress towards achieving them.

In September 2013, at a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the realization of the MDGs, Minister Lynne Yellich, Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular), laid out some guiding principles that have helped inform the Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development's (DFATD) work looking ahead to 2015: including goals that are realistic, focused and measurable; focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable, including women and children; creating more jobs and economic growth; and setting out a strong accountability and measurement framework.[14]

Canada also contributed financially to the UN consultations organized by the UN System Task Team (see 1.2 A. above) between October 2012 and March 2013 in 88 countries, and it co-sponsored the UN consultation on education. Canada also participated in the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG), where it shared one of the 30 seats available in a troika with Israel and the United States.[15]

Through the various statements made by Canada's troika at the Open Working Group, speeches and declarations of Canadian government officials, we have identified a preliminary list of Canadian priorities for post-2015. In this section, we present this list and provide information on how the post-2015 discussions have been structured within DFATD. It is expected that there will be greater clarification and detail around these priorities in the coming months, as Canadian government positions become more evident with the beginning of the intergovernmental negotiation process.

2.1 CANADIAN GOVERNMENT PRIORITIES FOR POST-2015

A. A limited number of realistic, focused, and measurable goals

While there were eight MDGs, the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group (OWG) contains 17 goals and 169 targets. After the MNCH Summit in May 2014, Prime Minister Harper

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[14] Government of Canada. September 23, 2013. "Speech for The Honourable Lynne Yellich, Minister of State (Foreign Affairs and Consular Services) at the United Nations General Assembly Special Event : Towards Achieving the Millennium Development Goals."

[15] For work in the OWG, the Member States decided to use an innovative, constituency-based system of representation in which most of the seats in the OWG are shared by several countries. Of the 30 members of the OWG, Canada, Israel and the United States shared one seat, just like France, Germany and Switzerland or India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka share two others respectively. See the list of groupings here: http://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/owg.html

"cautioned against adding too many new goals to the list, saying that could make it more difficult to achieve any of them."[16] For the final post-2015 framework, Canada will actively be seeking the adoption of a limited set of goals with clear and measurable targets and indicators.

B. Universality

Canada accepts the universal nature of the goals – that is, that the goals would apply to all member states, including Canada, while individual countries might develop their own country-specific targets and indicators. But the focus on poverty reduction of the poorest and most vulnerable people in the developing world would suggest that Canada may not see the goals as necessitating commensurate domestic targets and indicators for Canada. That said, the government is exploring the implications of the universal applicability of a future post-2015 framework, particularly how these would apply in a federal system such as Canada's; but the federal government is also having to be mindful that it is essentially negotiating a final framework on behalf of Canada in many areas over which the provinces have jurisdiction. In that vein, Ottawa is conscious that it will need to consult the provinces and territories on this process, and it has been sharing information with provincial governments on the post-2015 agenda. The province of Quebec, for its part, has already begun to more pro-actively engage the federal government on the post-2015 debate. For its part, Statistics Canada is also undertaking a mapping exercise to identify what data already exists within Canada as relates to potential future goals, and what is missing.

C. Poverty eradication

The first goal of the proposed SDGs is to "end poverty in all its forms everywhere." Canada strongly supports this focus on poverty eradication for the post-2015 development agenda. In particular, Canada believes – as noted already – that the focus should be on the poorest and most vulnerable people (given the recent shift in countries of focus,[17] presumably in both Low or Middle Income Countries), including women and children, and that this focus should continue to be at the heart of any post-2015 sustainable development agenda.

D. Maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH)

The highest priority of the Canadian government for the post-2015 development agenda, not surprisingly, is maternal, newborn and child health (MNCH). Canada has been providing leadership on this agenda since 2010 when it launched the Muskoka Initiative to mobilize global action on MNCH. Then in the fall of 2013, Prime Minister Stephen Harper co-hosted a high-level meeting on women's and children's health during which he clearly identified MNCH as Canada's

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[16] The Globe and Mail. 29 May 2014. "Harper excludes abortion from maternal health plan". Online: http://www.theglobeandmail.com/news/politics/harper-urges-united-nations-to-keep-aim-on-improving-maternal-child-health/article18917048/ (consulted on 14 August 2014).

[17] In July 2014, Canada increased the number of countries of focus where it operates from 20 to 25. It cut Bolivia and Pakistan in the process, but added Burkina Faso, Benin, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (and substituted Sudan for South Sudan) in Africa, Burma, Mongolia, and the Philippines in Asia, and Jordan in the Middle East. For a full list of countries, see http://www.international.gc.ca/media/dev/news-communiques/2014/06/27abg.aspx?lang=eng

"flagship development priority." In this vein, the <u>"Saving Every Woman Every Child" global summit</u>, held in Toronto in May 2014, was considered by many as Canada's stepping stone towards post-2015. During that Summit, Prime Minister Harper announced <u>Canada's commitment of $3.5 billion</u> to improve the health of mothers and children for the period of 2015–2020. This commitment reflects Canada's position to address the unfinished business of the MDGs – in this case MDGs 4, 5 and 6.

E. Job creation and economic growth
Canada is putting a strong emphasis on job creation (including decent work) and economic growth to reflect current realities and what was missing from the MDGs agenda – although this issue also aligns with the current strong push at DFATD on economic growth and the private sector, including increasingly promoting Canadian commercial interests within this vision. This is perhaps best illustrated by new partnerships with Canadian extractive companies and in the Government's January 2014 <u>Global Markets Action Plan</u>, which lays out opportunities for Canadian companies in the developing world. The post-2015 vision translates into placing a strong emphasis on private-sector led growth (likely with a strong emphasis on the extractive industries and natural resource management), promoting a favourable business environment to facilitate this, and women's economic empowerment. As already alluded to, Canada's approach to growth, however, assumes a direct link between growth, development and poverty reduction, and its approach to economic empowerment is somewhat instrumental, rather than necessarily empowering – integrating women into the marketplace, increasing their incomes, and assuming that that brings with it empowerment.[18]

F. Peace and security
Another area that Canada would like to see reflected in the post-2015 framework is peace and security. A focus on "failed and fragile states" has long been a pre-occupation of the Canadian government. There is general agreement that no failed or fragile state has met the MDGs, but there is also some degree of acceptance that this was perhaps an unrealistic aspiration given the development trajectory of many of these countries. Canada has been an active member of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's <u>International Network on Conflict and Fragility</u> (INCAF), and through INCAF has developed a set of tools to guide development cooperation in these states. Accordingly, DFATD believes that it is possible to measure progress on peace and conflict and other work in failed and fragile states, and that this issue should be part of the final framework. Canada supports a stand-alone goal on promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development. Canada is also in favor of a target on the role of women in peace processes, but this has not been reflected in the OWG <u>Outcome Document</u>.

G. Civil society enabling environment and multi-stakeholder engagement
Canada's <u>Commitment to Protect and Promote the Enabling Environment for Civil Society</u> was announced by International Development Minister, Christian Paradis, at the First High Level

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[18] See CCIC. 2012. "The Elusive Quest for Pro-Poor Growth? An Analysis of CIDA's Economic Growth Strategy." Online: <u>http://www.ccic.ca/_files/en/what_we_do/2011_12_Pro-poor_growth_paper_e.pdf</u>

Meeting of the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation in April 2014 in Mexico. The statement specifically acknowledges the role that civil society plays in realizing development outcomes and enabling people to hold their governments to account and to participate in decision-making on issues that affect them. It notes the worrying trend of governments introducing legislation that undermines CSOs' capacity to function, including undue interference, onerous registration processes and restricting access to foreign funding. And it points to the centrality of governments to promoting and protecting the rights to freedom of association, to peaceful assembly and of expression, amongst others, to reverse this trend. Two months later, the government also announced a Draft Civil Society Partnership Policy, laying out the principles and objectives of its engagement with CSOs.

For many, both developments mark a significant shift in the approach the government has taken in recent years – namely, a noticeable decline in what was once an important partnership between development CSOs and the government. This manifested itself in a sudden change in funding modalities for CSOs in 2010, a reduction in funding, very *ad hoc* opportunities for consultation and dialogue, accompanied by a lack of recognition of the diversity and value of CSO contributions to development. All of this has had detrimental impacts on the programs of both CSOs and DFATD.[19]

That said, while the government has long been active internationally in the Task Team on CSO Development Effectiveness and Enabling Environment – a multi-stakeholder forum with donor governments, partner country government and CSOs – and chairs the Working Group on Enabling and Protecting Civil Society within the Community of Democracies, for many Canadian CSOs, these developments mark a very new area of interest from the government. It is still unclear how (and whether) this increased focus on issues related to CSO enabling environment will translate into a priority issue for the government in any post-2015 framework.

Multi-stakeholder dialogue and partnerships – consistent with the government's interest in the private sector and new focus on civil society – on the other hand, are likely to receive more attention. In the same Mexico statement, Minister Paradis underscored Canada's commitment to "make multistakeholder partnership models the norm" for development cooperation and "to promote a multistakeholder dialogue to inform and facilitate a diversity of perspectives and approaches." He added that, "Inclusive development, underpinned by democratic ownership, is essential to building a Post-2015 Development Agenda that delivers results."[20] Accordingly, during negotiations on the text of the OWG Outcome Document, Canada lobbied to include

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[19] See CCIC and ICN. June 2014. "Establishing an enabling environment for civil society organizations in Canada: Key issues affecting Canadian international development and humanitarian organizations." Online: http://www.ccic.ca/_files/en/what_we_do/june_2014_final_draft-full_report-establishing_an_ee_for_csos_in_canada.pdf

[20] DFATD. 17 April 2014. "Statement by Minister Paradis on Canada's Commitment to Protect and Promote an Enabling Environment for Civil Society". Online: http://www.international.gc.ca/media/dev/news-communiques/2014/04/17c.aspx?lang=eng (consulted on 16 August 2014)

civil society within the sub goal 17.17, notably to, "encourage and promote effective public, public-private, and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships."

H. Results and accountability
Canada has been working on strengthening results and accountability notably through its work on the G8 Accountability Reports and the UN Commission on Information and Accountability for health of women and children. Canada is currently supporting a second round of global consultations (on the whole post-2015 agenda) through a contribution to the UNDP. As part of this, Canada will co-sponsor with the Republic of Korea and Peru (with UNICEF and UN Women), a United Nations dialogue on participatory monitoring for accountability. Canada also supports the idea of a "data revolution," working in collaboration with Statistics Canada, which was put forward by the High Level Panel of Eminent Persons which argued that more data is needed to inform policy making and programming, to measure new goals and to enable people to have the necessary information to hold their governments to account.

I. Other priorities
While the above priorities do not preclude Canada supporting other areas (like stand-alone goals on education and food security, and a strong focus on gender equality and environmental sustainability), Canada is conscious that it is important to ensure the post-2015 framework is not a donor-driven agenda with countries like Canada pushing too many issues. That said, from the civil society side, it may be important for CSOs to continue to press the government on a range of key areas to ensure that the government understands what issues we, as civil society, still consider to be key in any post-2015 agenda.

2.2 POST-2015 DISCUSSIONS IN CANADA
DFATD has set up a structure for discussing post-2015 related issues within and across government departments and has engaged in a few thematic roundtables and informal discussions with some CSOs on various issues.

A. Post-2015 Discussions within DFATD
The Canadian government has set up department-wide DFATD thematic working groups to grapple with issues related to the post-2015 agenda. These working groups meet monthly and follow many of the themes emerging from the OWG discussions. They include the following:

- child protection and education,
- food security and nutrition,
- environmental sustainability (including natural resource management, energy and climate change),
- financing for development,
- Fragile and Conflict Affected States and security,
- gender equality,

- governance and human rights,
- health,
- MNCH,
- private sector, jobs and growth, extractives and infrastructure,
- accountability, measurement and results, and
- statistics.

CSOs who are interested in discussing specific themes related to post-2015 can get in touch with the leads of the various DFATD working groups. There is also an inter-departmental working group at the Director General level. Given the focus on sustainable development, Environment Canada is particular active in this working group.

In addition to the thematic working groups, there are also Focal Points for discussions related to program coherence (across global, partnership and geographic programs within DFATD), on legal and trade issues, for liaising on developments at the United Nations in New York, and on consultations with civil society.
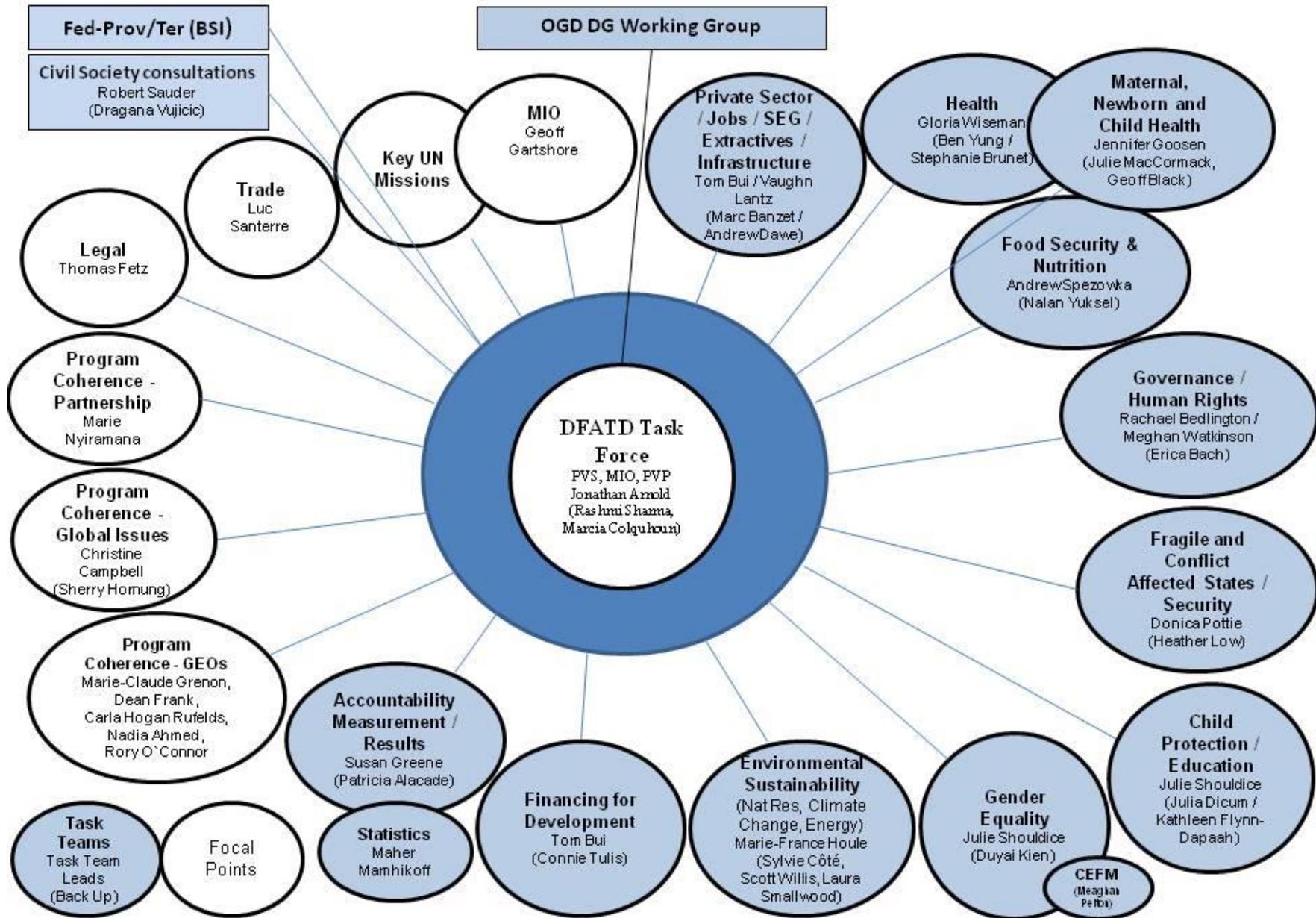
To coordinate all of these processes and inputs into the OWG process that concluded in July 2014, DFATD established a Core Coordination Team. Their role was taken over in August 2014 by a Post-2015 Task Force. The Task Force will coordinate the inputs of the various Working Groups/Task Teams, consolidate the Canadian government's position on the Post-2015 Agenda, and support the negotiations at the UN leading up to September 2015.

B. Consultations in Canada on Post-2015
The Canadian government has so far presented a limited number of opportunities for Canadian civil society organizations and citizens to feed into the post-2015 discussions at the national level. There was a consultation in early 2013 on education, ahead of the UN thematic discussion Canada co-sponsored. There have also been periodic consultations around the theme of Maternal, Newborn and Child Health throughout 2013 and 2014. Since April, there have been a few informal meetings between civil society organizations and DFATD officials.

Plans for official broader consultations in Canada on post-2015 are expected to be announced this fall, but nothing has been approved so far. These consultations are likely to offer a mix of round tables, online consultations, and informal meetings on specific themes. We expect that they will also involve civil society, the private sector as well as the provinces and territories.

POST-2015 DEVELOPMENT AGENDA – THEMATIC WORKING GROUP

THE POST-2015 PROCESS AND CANADA

USEFUL REFERENCES

Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals
- Outcome Document

Intergovernmental Committee of Experts on Sustainable Development Financing (ICESDF)

High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Beyond 2015 Campaign
- Beyond 2015 Reaction to the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group (forthcoming)
- Beyond 2015 produced a collective Beyond 2015 reaction to the OWG's 'Zero Draft Rev 1' on SDGs (3 July 2014)
- The International Process Leading to the Post-2015 Framework at a Glance

Outcome Document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio +20) entitled "The future we want"

Millenium Development Goals and Beyond 2015